

Batting for Noah

REP. CORNELIUS E. GALLAGHER (D-N. J.), a former member of the Rutgers University faculty and valedictorian of his law class at John Marshall College, thought he understood the King's English before coming to Washington. But Washington gobbledegook sent him thumbing wildly through the dictionaries and Pentagonese is simply driving him mad.

For the past several weeks he's been searching for a literal definition of what is currently the most overworked word in Washington—paramilitary.

The word doesn't show as such in the dictionaries. Yet it was being tossed around with such abandon in committees and the corridors that Gallagher tried to track it down. He couldn't find anyone who really knew.

His own stab at word analysis: "It means a military force that is just vaguely a military force, or maybe it is just a conglomeration of military and CIA forces called on to perform a mission no one knows very much about and no one wants to."

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